

1 [Supporting Expanded Access to Safe Drinking Water through Hydration Stations]

2

3 **Resolution reaffirming the Board of Supervisors’ support for public access to clean**
4 **drinking water, and for increasing the availability of hydration stations in City-owned**
5 **buildings and public spaces in San Francisco.**

6

7 WHEREAS, High quality drinking water, particularly in lieu of sugar-sweetened
8 beverages (SSBs) such as sodas, sports drinks, and fruit flavored beverages, can help
9 prevent obesity and dental cavities, and boost hydration that is essential for overall health and
10 cognition; and

11 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s tap water confers benefits over bottled water - it contains
12 fluoride that can help prevent caries, is tested more regularly, is more affordable, and leaves a
13 smaller environmental footprint than bottled water; and

14 WHEREAS, Despite the benefits of tap water, higher consumption of SSBs in
15 communities of color and low-income communities have been associated with health
16 disparities in obesity, diabetes, dental cavities and other cardio metabolic diseases; and

17 WHEREAS, Purchases of bottled water can also adversely affect health by shifting
18 finite household resources from healthcare, education, or other essential household needs;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Studies, primarily from school settings, suggest that provision of appealing
21 and safe tap water through reusable water bottles or water dispensers with culturally
22 competent promotion, can increase intake of water, decrease intake of SSBs, and reduce
23 obesity; and

24

25

1 WHEREAS, Observations of parks in San Francisco demonstrate that only five percent
2 of park visitors use water fountains and that fountains have lower odds of being used if they
3 are dirty or have obstructions that block access; and

4 WHEREAS, Defects in a site’s plumbing can compromise the excellent water quality
5 provided by the SFPUC Water System by introducing contaminants into tap water; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2013, the City approved the Drink Tap Ordinance, Chapter 23 of the
7 Environment Code, which requires that for new construction of City-owned or privately-owned
8 buildings that provide one or more drinking fountains, such drinking fountains must be
9 accompanied by a drink tap station (*i.e.*, water bottle filler); and

10 WHEREAS, In 2014, the City approved the Bottled Water Ordinance, Chapter 24 of the
11 Environment Code, which restricts the sale or distribution on City property of drinking water in
12 plastic bottles of 21 ounces or less, and set City policy to increase the availability of drinking
13 water in public areas; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
15 finds that access to clean drinking water is essential to the health and well-being of all San
16 Franciscans; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors finds publicly accessible
18 hydration stations, which provide both water bottle filling stations and drinking fountains, are
19 an effective way to encourage people to drink water; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That hydrations stations should be located conveniently in
21 publicly-accessible places throughout the City; and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors designates the City
23 Administrator to convene a steering committee of City departments, including, but not limited
24 to, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), the Department of Public Health,
25 Recreation and Park Department, and the Port of San Francisco (“Steering Committee”), in an

1 effort to develop strategies to promote the installation of hydration stations in City-owned or
2 operated publicly-accessible buildings, and City Property such as parks, plazas and streets;
3 and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Steering Committee, should develop
5 recommendations on best practices and standards for the design of publicly accessible
6 hydration stations, including signage; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board urges the SFPUC to develop a program to test
8 tap water at publicly accessible hydration stations and drinking fountains in locations where
9 such contamination is suspected, and if contamination is found, the City agency responsible
10 for the facility shall fix the defective plumbing; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That culturally competent educational and public awareness
12 campaigns about the health benefits of drinking water, and about the exceptional purity of San
13 Francisco's tap water, complement City efforts to provide hydration stations, and that the
14 SFPUC is urged to lead City efforts towards developing and sustaining such robust and
15 effective education and public awareness campaigns; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests that the Steering
17 Committee develop a strategy, standards, and metrics for a hydration station program which
18 fulfills the goals of this resolution, develop guidelines, protocols, and best practices for
19 maintenance standards and that the development of these goals involve subject-matter
20 experts, community groups, other stakeholders, and the general public; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Steering Committee, if convened, is requested to
22 present the strategy, standards, and metrics for a City hydration station program to the Board
23 of Supervisors no later than December 31, 2020.

24
25